



**COALITION
FOR
RECREATIONAL
TRAILS**

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Washington, D.C. 20005
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FAX 202-682-9529

February 11, 2011

The Honorable John L. Mica
Chair, Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member, Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John J. Duncan, Jr.
Chair, Highways and Transit
Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member, Highways and Transit
Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Mica, Representative Rahall,
Representative Duncan and Representative DeFazio:

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) was created in 1991 as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and plays an absolutely essential role in funding state trail programs and projects all across the country. As national, regional and local organizations that support recreational trails, we urge you to support the reauthorization of the RTP as a discrete program in new surface transportation legislation.

Funding for the RTP is derived from federal taxes paid on gasoline used in nonhighway recreation and is administered by the Federal Highway Administration. Funding is distributed to the states based on a formula that honors the user-pay/user-benefit character of the program. RTP funds are utilized by state transportation departments and natural resource agencies in cooperation with citizen advisory committees and a network of organizations and communities. These partners leverage available funding with cash and in-kind support – often doubling available federal funds. Work for these projects is primarily done by youth corps, volunteers, and small businesses, providing employment opportunities for many hardest hit by the recession and the finished projects are catalysts for tourism, providing valuable access to public lands.

The RTP funding-distribution process is proven, having successfully funded in excess of 15,000 projects across the nation over the past 19 years. Despite this success, there is still a backlog of good-quality, eligible projects. New awareness of physical activity as a proven means to control healthcare costs combines with clear economic benefits of the trails aided by the RTP. For these reasons, and because past legislation failed to make available all of the funds attributable to nonhighway recreation use of gasoline, we request continuing and even increased funding for the RTP.

Trails are an investment in the future of our communities and our public lands, while connecting people of all ages and backgrounds to the environment – which is good for them and good for the world that surrounds them.

We have seen firsthand the power of these projects to transform communities and transform people. Indeed RTP-funded projects represent investments in

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vital infrastructure that promote healthy communities and more importantly, healthy people. In addition, the economic impact of these projects is magnified because they improve access to public lands and waters and support both local tourism and recreation businesses, as well as healthy lifestyles.

Our thousands of members and allies believe that reauthorizing the Recreational Trails Program will achieve both important economic stimulation and strategic investments that will help transform American communities and lifestyles for long-term success.

We also emphasize our strong support for continuation of the Recreational Trails Program as a discrete program. We understand that efficiencies can be achieved by integrating some programs. However, in the case of the RTP, which has come to serve as the foundation for every state's trail program, we think that the damage to the program would far outweigh any potential administrative benefits. The RTP has an identified funding source directly related to trail-based recreation, an exceptional record of using those funds to leverage additional funding for trails, and a proven, transparent, responsive state-based system for distributing funds for a wide variety of trail-related uses. All of those exceptional benefits would be lost if the RTP lost its discrete identity.

The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) has prepared the enclosed paper that provides additional background, as well as some recommended modifications to the RTP. For more information, we invite you to contact one of the Co-Chairs of the Coalition for Recreational Trails: Marianne Fowler (Marianne@railstotrails.org) or Derrick Crandall (dcrandall@funoutdoors.com).

Please join Americans across the country in supporting the Recreational Trails Program as part of the new federal transportation bill. Thank you for your leadership in addressing our nation's transportation challenges.

Sincerely,

National/International Membership Organizations

All-Terrain Vehicle Association
Alta Planning + Design
America Bikes
America Outdoors Association
American Council of Snowmobile Associations
American Discovery Trail Society
American Hiking Society
American Horse Council
American Motorcyclist Association
American Quarter Horse Association
American Recreation Coalition
American Society of Landscape Architects
American Trails
Americans for Responsible Recreational Access
Back Country Horsemen of America
Bikes Belong Coalition
BlueRibbon Coalition
The Corps Network
East Coast Greenway Alliance
Equine Land Conservation Resource
Groundwork USA
International Association of Snowmobile Administrators

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National/International Membership Organizations continued

International Mountain Bicycling Association
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Association of Recreation Resource Planners
National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds
National Association of State Park Directors
National Association of State Trail Administrators
National Competitive Trail Horse Association
National Forest Recreation Association
National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council
National Recreation and Park Association
North American Trail Ride Conference
Partnership for the National Trails System
Professional Trail Builders Association
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
Tread Lightly!, Inc.
United Four Wheel Drive Associations
Western States Tourism Policy Council

Other Supporters

Access4Bikes, California
Active Transportation Alternatives, Montana
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Alabama Hiking Trail Society
Alabama Horse Council
The Alabama Recreational Trails Advisory Board
Alabama State Parks Division
Alaska Trails
Alaska Transportation Priorities Project
Albert Lea Convention and Visitors Bureau, Minnesota
All Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota
Allegheny Ridge Corporation, Pennsylvania
Amateur Riders Motorcycle Association of Minnesota
A.O. Smith Corp., Kentucky
Appalachian Mountain Club, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts,
New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island
Arizona OHV Coalition
Arizona State Parks
Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs
B & O Trail Association, Indiana
Back Country ATV Association, Idaho
Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona
The Back Country Horsemen of Idaho
Back Country Horsemen of Montana
Back Country Horsemen of Utah
Back Country Horsemen of Washington State

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Other Supporters continued

Back Country Horsemen of West Virginia
Baldwin County Trailblazers, Inc., Alabama
Bay Area Barns and Trails, California
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, California
Bay Circuit Alliance, Massachusetts
Bay State Trail Riders Association, Massachusetts
Beneficial Designs, Inc., Nevada
Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Inc., Massachusetts
Bicycle Coalition of Maine
Bicycle Trails Council of Marin, California
Bigfoot Bicycle Club, California
Big Lake Trails, Inc., Alaska
Black Hills Mountain Bike Association, South Dakota
Blackwater Trail Riders, New Hampshire
Boise ATV Riders Association, Idaho
Border to Boston Trail Coalition, Massachusetts
Brown & Danos landdesign, inc., Louisiana
Buckeye Dual Sporters, Ohio
Buffalo River Back Country Horsemen, Arkansas
Burden Center Trees and Trails, Louisiana
Burlington Recreation and Parks Department, North Carolina
California Bicycle Coalition
California Conservation Corps
California Equestrian Trails and Lands Coalition
California Recreational Trails Committee
California Trail Users Coalition
California Trails & Greenways Foundation
Callander Associates, California
Capitol Off-Road Pedalers, Wisconsin
The Carolina Thread Trail, North Carolina
Carolina Trail Builders, North Carolina
Carroll County Board, Illinois
Carson Valley Trails Association, Nevada
Catamount Trail Association, Vermont
Catawba Lands Conservancy, North Carolina
Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association, Georgia
Central Illinois Mountain Bike Association
Central Kentucky Back Country Horsemen
Central New York Dedicated Individuals for Responsible Trail-use
Central Rhode Island JAYCEES
Cheaha Trail Riders, Inc., Alabama
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Washington
Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association, Wisconsin
Chester Wood State Trail Committee, Minnesota
Chicago Area Sea Kayakers Association, Illinois
Chittenango Creek Walk and Neighborhood Trail Committee, New York
Choose Outdoors, Colorado
Chowan County Tourism Development Authority, North Carolina
The City of Bogalusa, Louisiana
City of Cornelia, Georgia

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Other Supporters continued

City of Fort Wayne, Indiana
City of Fresno Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services
Department, California
City of Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Department, California
City of Monroe, Louisiana
City of Newark, Delaware
City of Newburyport Office of Planning and Development, Massachusetts
City of North Little Rock, Arkansas
City of Oxford Parks and Recreation, North Carolina
City of Pasadena, Department of Public Works, California
The City of Shelby, Montana
The City of Somerville, Massachusetts
City of Zachary, Louisiana
Clayton Parks and Recreation Department, North Carolina
Coastal Land Trust, California
Coastal Trails Coalition, Inc., Massachusetts
Coastwalk California
The Coconino Rural Environment Corps, Arizona
Colcom Foundation, Pennsylvania
Collinsville Area Recreation District, Illinois
Concerned Long Island Mountain Bikers, New York
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Connecticut Horse Council Inc.
County Line Riders of Catalina, Inc., Arizona
Crossroads Cycling Club, North Carolina
Cumberland Trail Conference, Tennessee
Cyclists of the Gitchee Gumees Shores, Minnesota
Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association, Texas
Danvers Bi-Peds, Inc., Massachusetts
Delaware Equine Council
The Delaware Greenway and Trails Council
Delaware Recreation and Parks Society
Delaware State Parks
Delaware Trail Spinners
Derry Area Recreational Board, Pennsylvania
Dothan Leisure Services, Alabama
Downhill Coalition, Oregon
Draper City Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee, Utah
East Bay Area Trails Council, California
Eastern Trail Alliance, Maine
El Dorado Equestrian Trail Foundation, California
Empire State Quarter Horse Association, New York
Equestrian Partners in Conservation, Maryland
Equestrian Trails, Inc., California
Essex County Trail Association, Massachusetts
Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department, Alaska
Fallbrook Land Conservancy Trails Council, California
Faribo Sno-Go Club, Minnesota
Five Rivers Metro Parks, Ohio
Florida Green Guide Association

Other Supporters continued

The Florida Mudcutters, Inc.
Florida Trail Association
Foothill Trail Hounds, California
Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen, Kentucky
Friends of Acadia, Maine
Friends of Gillette Castle State Park, Connecticut
Friends of Harkness Park, Connecticut
Friends of Lakes Folsom and Natoma, California
Friends of Lafitte Corridor, Louisiana
Friends of Southampton Greenway, Massachusetts
Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail, Michigan
Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina and Virginia
Friends of the Edgewood-Oak Brush Plains Preserve, New York
Friends of the Lewistown, Montana Trails, LLC
Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail, Massachusetts
Friends of the Mill Towns State Trail, Minnesota
Friends of the Moshassuck, Rhode Island
Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, North Carolina
Friends of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County, New Hampshire
Friends of the Ouachita Trail, Arkansas
Friends of the Riverfront, Pennsylvania
Friends of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Connecticut
Friends of the Trails, Illinois
Gallatin County Parks and Trails Committee, Montana
Gallatin Equestrian Partnership, Montana
Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Montana
Gaston County Parks and Recreation, North Carolina
Get Outdoors USA!, Washington, D.C.
The Glacial Drumlin Horse Trail Association, Wisconsin
The Goethe Trail, Inc., Florida
Granite State Carriage Association, New Hampshire
Great Barrington Housatonic River Walk, Massachusetts
Great Barrington Land Conservancy, Massachusetts
Great Barrington Trails & Greenways, Massachusetts
Great Falls Trail Bike Riders Association, Montana
Greater Houston Off-Road Biking Association, Texas
Greater Memphis Greenline, Tennessee
Groundwork Lawrence, Massachusetts
Gwinnett County Parks, Georgia
Hanover Idling Awareness, New Hampshire
Hartigan Management, North Carolina
Hayward Hiking Club, California
Haywood Greenways Advisory Council, North Carolina
Headwaters Montana of Whitefish, Montana
Hickory Hideaway, Illinois
Highlands Plateau Greenway, North Carolina
High Rides Mountain Bike Club, Florida
Hoosier Back Country Horsemen, Indiana
Houston County EDA Trails, Minnesota
Human Powered Trails, Inc., Wisconsin

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Other Supporters continued

Hunterdon Horse & Pony Association, New Jersey
Idaho Recreation and Park Association
Idaho Recreation Council
Idaho State ATV Association
Idaho State Snowmobile Association
Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs
Illinois Paddling Council
Illinois Trail Riders
Illinois Trails Conservancy
Indiana Trail Riders Association
Interior Trails Preservation Coalition, Alaska
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Iowa Motorcycle Dealers Association
Iowa Motorsports Coalition
Iowa OHV Association
Ipswich Bay Circuit Trail Committee, Massachusetts
Jackson County Recreation and Parks Department, North Carolina
JAYCEE Education & Library Foundation of Rhode Island
The Jena Times, Louisiana
Jersey Action Riders Mountain Bike Club
Jersey Off Road Bicycle Association
Kansas Horse Council
Kelly Landscape Architects, LLC, Alabama
The Kent County Junior Chamber, Rhode Island
Kentucky Back Country Horsemen
Kentucky Horse Council
Kings Mountain Gateway Trails, Inc., North Carolina
Kingston Conservation Commission, Massachusetts
Klamath Mountain Bike Association, Oregon
Knox County Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities Partnership, Tennessee
Kuna Trail Riders, Idaho
Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission, California
Lake County Public Services Department, California
Lake Mansfield Alliance, Massachusetts
Lancaster Recreation Commission, Pennsylvania
Lassen Land and Trails Trust, California
Laurel Foundation, Pennsylvania
League of Illinois Bicyclists
Lewiston Trails Group, California
Lewistown Park and Recreation Department, Montana
Linn County Conservation Board, Iowa
Long Island Greenways and Healthy Trails, New York
Louisiana Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects
Louisiana Equine Council
Louisiana Tech University, Recreation Department
Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust, Massachusetts
Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands
Maine Island Trail Association
Maine Snowmobile Association
Mass Audubon, Massachusetts

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Other Supporters continued

Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board
Maui Na Ala Hele, Hawaii
Miami Valley Mountain Bike Association, Ohio
Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance
Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts, District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia
Millstone Trailblazers, New Jersey
Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists
Minnesota Trail Riders Association
Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association
Minooka Park, Alabama
Mississippi River Corridor, Tennessee
Mississippi River Trail, Inc., Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota,
Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Wisconsin
Missoula Parks & Recreation, Montana
Missoula Snowgoers, Montana
Moab Friends-For-Wheelin', Utah
Moab Trails Alliance, Utah
Mohave Desert ATV Riders Association, Arizona
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Montana Recreation and Parks Association
Montana Snowmobile Association
The Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association
Moore Planning Group, LLC, Louisiana
Mountain Home ATV Club, Idaho
Muttontown Horsemen's Association, New York
National Coast Trail Association, Oregon
National Forest Association – Los Padres, California
The Natural Gait, LLC, Iowa
Nebraska State Snowmobile Association
Nebraska Trails Council
Nevada All-State Trail Riders
New England Mountain Bike Association, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New
Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont
New Hampshire BikeSmart
New Hampshire Bureau of Trails
New Hampshire Horse Council
New Hampshire Mushers Association
New Hampshire Quarter Horse Association
New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition
New Hampshire Snowmobile Association
New Jersey Horse Council
New Jersey Off Highway Vehicle Association
New York City Mountain Bike Association
New York – New Jersey Trail Conference
New York State Horse Council, Inc.
Newtown Bridle Lands Association, Connecticut
The NorCal High School Cycling League, California
North Ada County Foothills Association, Idaho
North Carolina Horse Council
North Carolina Paddle Trails Association

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Other Supporters continued

North Carolina Rail-Trails, Inc.
North Carolina Recreation & Park Association
North Country Trail Association, Michigan
The North Shore Nordic Club of Bigfork, Montana
Northern Area Alaska Parks Citizen Advisory Board
Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Vermont
Northern Kentucky Horse Network
Northwest Georgia SORBA
Oahu Na Ala Hele, Hawaii
Ocala Mountain Bike Association, Florida
Ohio Motorized Trails Association
Ohio State Snowmobile Association
Okanogan Valley Chapter, Back Country Horseman of Washington
Oregon Motorcycle Riders Association
Oregon State Snowmobile Association
Ouachita Mountain Hikers, Arkansas
Ozark Greenways, Inc., Missouri
Paiute ATV Trail Committee, Utah
Palmetto Conservation Foundation, South Carolina
The Parish of St. Charles, Louisiana
Parks & Trails New York
Pasadena Mountain Bike Club, California
Pawtuxent River Authority and Watershed Council, Rhode Island
Pennsylvania Equine Council
Pennsylvania Off-Highway Vehicle Association
Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society
Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association
Peoria Park District, Illinois
PHM Design Corporation, Colorado
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, Minnesota
Pilgrim Sands Trail Riders, Inc., Massachusetts
Pima Trails Association, Arizona
Pinedale Snow Explorers, Wyoming
Piscataqua Hounds, New Hampshire
Piscataquog Area Trailways, Inc., New Hampshire
Plaquemines Parish Off Road Committee, Louisiana
Pointe Coupe Parish Police Jury, Louisiana
Portland Trails, Maine
Rails to Trails of NW Montana, Inc.
Rapids Riders Club, Minnesota
R. B. Lohr & Company, New Hampshire
Recreational Trails, Inc., Montana
Red Mountain Park, Alabama
Redding Mountain Biking Club, California
Reno Wheelmen, Nevada
Resource Technology, Inc., New Mexico
Rhode Island Blueways Alliance
Ride with Respect, Utah
River of Grass Greenway, Florida
River Road African American Museum, Louisiana

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Other Supporters continued

Roanoke Parks and Recreation, Virginia
St. Mary Parish Government Department of Economic Development, Louisiana
St. Tammany Parish Tammany Trace, Louisiana
Sam Houston Forest Equestrian Association, Texas
Sam Houston Trails Coalition, Texas
San Diego Mountain Biking Association, California
San Luis Obispo Parks Open Space and Trails Foundation, California
Santa Clara County Parks, California
Save Mercer And Ride the Trails, New Jersey
Savoy Canary Kats Snowmobile Club, Inc., Massachusetts
Schuyler Snowstars, Nebraska
Seeley Nordic Ski Club, Montana
Serpentine Art and Nature Commons, Inc., New York
Shady Grove Recreation District, Louisiana
Shawnee Trail Conservancy, Illinois
Shore Riders Pony Club, New Jersey
The Sierra Front Recreation Coalition, Nevada
Somerset Horse and Pony Association, New Jersey
Sonoma County Trails Council, California
Sorella Cycling, Georgia
South Carolina Horsemen's Council
South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation
South Dakota Parks and Recreation Association
South Dakota Recreational Trails Program Advisory Council
South Dakota Snowmobile Association
The Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission
South Eastern Distance Riders Association, Florida
Southeastern Minnesota Association of Recreational Trails
Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association, Georgia
Southwest Conservation Corps, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Utah
Southwest Regional Recreation Authority of Virginia
Spring Township Parks and Recreation, Pennsylvania
Stark County Park District, Ohio
Stock Horse of Wisconsin
Susquehanna River Trail Association, Pennsylvania
Swan Ecosystem Center, Montana
Syracuse Snoflakes Snowmobile Club, Nebraska
Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway, Nevada
Tahoe Rim Trail Association, Nevada
Takahik River Valley Hikers, Arkansas
Tammany Trace Foundation, Louisiana
Tehachapi Mountain Trails Association, California
Tennessee Commission on Greenways and Trails
Tennessee Rovers
Texas Motorized Trails Coalition
Texas Parks & Wildlife
The Town of Apex, North Carolina
The Town of Bethania, North Carolina
Town of Georgetown Rec Path Committee, Massachusetts
Town of Kentwood, Louisiana

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Other Supporters continued

Town of Mansura, Louisiana
Town of Millinocket, Maine
Town of Olla, Louisiana
Town of Port Barre, Louisiana
Town of Sturbridge, Massachusetts
Town of Vernon Parks and Recreation Department, Connecticut
TRACKS, Arizona
Trail Management Services LLC, Ohio
Trail Mix, Inc., Alaska
Trails4All, California
Trails Trust of Humboldt Bay, California
Triangle Greenways Council, North Carolina
Truckee Meadows Trails Association, Nevada
Twin Cities Trail Riders, Minnesota
Upper Valley Trails Alliance, Vermont
Utah Snowmobile Association
Utah State Parks and Recreation
Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers, Alaska
Vermont Horse Council
Vermont Mountain Bike Association
Vermont Trail Trotters
Virginia Horse Council
Wachusett Greenways, Inc., Massachusetts
Walkkill Valley Rail Trail Association, New York
Walpole Trails Committee, Massachusetts
Warrenton Trails Association, Oregon
Washington Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
Weber Pathways, Utah
West Ouachita Youth Sports Association, Louisiana
West Yellowstone Ski Education Foundation, Montana
White Mountain Open Trails Association, Arizona
Whitefish Legacy Partners, Montana
Wisconsin Off-Highway Vehicle Association
The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, Rhode Island
Woodlands Trail and Park, Louisiana
WOW Trail of Laconia, New Hampshire
Wyoming Back Country Horsemen
Wyoming Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails
Wyoming State Snowmobile Association
XCSkiResorts.com, New Hampshire
Yadkin River Greenway Council, North Carolina
YMCA of Northeast Louisiana
York County Rail Trail Authority, Pennsylvania

cc: Members, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, U.S. House of Representatives